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## 1 STIPULATION

2 It is hereby stipulated and agreed by  
3 and between the parties hereto, through their  
4 respective attorneys of record, that this  
5 deposition may be taken at the time and place  
6 hereinbefore set forth, by Celeste O.  
7 Werkheiser, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary  
8 Public, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil  
9 Procedure, as amended;  
10 That the formality of READING AND  
11 SIGNING is specifically NOT WAIVED;  
12 That all objections, except as to the  
13 form of the questions and the responsiveness of  
14 the answers, are reserved until such time as  
15 this deposition, or any part thereof, may be  
16 used or is sought to be used in evidence.  
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## 1 ROBERT HAMRICK

2 having been first duly sworn, was  
3 examined and testified, as follows:  
4 EXAMINATION  
5 BY MR. THOMPSON:  
6 Q. Good morning, Mr. Hamrick.  
7 A. Morning.  
8 Q. Mr. Hamrick, would you state your  
9 full name, please, for the record?  
10 A. Robert Andrew Hamrick.  
11 Q. Mr. Hamrick, my name is Eric  
12 Thompson. This is attorney Marcia Lowry. We  
13 represent the plaintiffs in the matter of Olivia  
14 Y. v. Barbour. Do you understand that you're  
15 here today to give sworn testimony in that  
16 matter?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. Mr. Hamrick, did you review any  
19 documents in preparation for this deposition?  
20 A. No.  
21 Q. Could you state what your position is  
22 with DHS, please?  
23 A. My title is Program Administrator  
24 Senior over the state's Foster Care Review  
25 Program.

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1 Q. And when you say in certain areas,  
2 are we talking about specific counties or  
3 regions?

4 A. We produce a report each month that  
5 does show a comparison between the regions and  
6 what those issues are. And there are specific  
7 regions, areas of the state, where it's more  
8 problematic than others.

9 Q. And what is that report?

10 A. It's a report we call Issues Observed  
11 During Foster Care Review. It's just one --  
12 it's nothing automated. It's something I put  
13 together manually each month.

14 Q. The issues observed include other  
15 issues besides the lack of adequate  
16 documentation, correct?

17 A. It could, yes, sir.

18 Q. Focusing specifically on the accuracy  
19 of MACWIS entries, are there specific counties  
20 or regions that have come to your attention as  
21 having more problems than others in the accuracy  
22 of their MACWIS data entry?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And what counties or regions are  
25 those?

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1 A. Primarily Region 6 North, Forrest  
2 County. And Region 6 South, Harrison and  
3 Hancock.

4 Q. And does that include the accuracy of  
5 placement data?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Does it include the accuracy of entry  
8 of the custody dates?

9 A. That's been reported a time or two.  
10 It's nothing that the reviewers focus on too  
11 much. They're more concerned with what happens  
12 after they come into custody as opposed to when  
13 a date got entered into -- like when a custody  
14 got entered into a system. But they have --  
15 reviewers have reported it to me on a few  
16 occasions.

17 Q. You base the scheduling of Foster  
18 Care Reviews, though, on the entry date into  
19 custody, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So if that entry date into custody is  
22 erroneously entered or not entered into MACWIS,  
23 you would not be able to accurately schedule a  
24 case for a six-month review; is that correct?

25 A. That is correct.

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1 Q. Has it come to your attention that  
2 certain cases have been scheduled for reviews  
3 that were not due for review?

4 A. What was that now?

5 Q. Let me ask it a different way. Has  
6 it come to your attention that there have been  
7 cases that were due for reviews that were not  
8 scheduled due to erroneous MACWIS information?

9 A. I'm sorry. I hate to be hard headed.  
10 But you're saying there's cases that have not  
11 been scheduled for a review because the  
12 information entered into MACWIS was not timely  
13 or --

14 Q. Yes. That's my question.

15 A. Okay. I'm sorry. Yes. Yes, that's  
16 correct.

17 Q. And what have you done as a result of  
18 that being brought to your attention?

19 A. Well, when we find out about them, we  
20 just try to schedule them as quickly as we can  
21 for a review. Also, we will go in, me and --  
22 I'll usually take that report I was telling you  
23 about earlier, that Children in Custody With  
24 Conference Dates More Than Six Months, I'll take  
25 that report and sit down with one of our -- one

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1 of the staff persons in our state office and  
2 she'll look up that information on -- I don't  
3 know what she calls the back end of the system,  
4 I don't know what she means by that, but that's  
5 what she does, and she can usually pinpoint  
6 exactly what happened on those cases.

7 So if I find that it's one where the  
8 county may have been late entering information  
9 into the system, I'll notate it on that report  
10 and send a copy of that report to the Regional  
11 Director who's over that area of the state as  
12 well as I'll send a copy to the reviewer because  
13 they still have -- I mean, even though it was  
14 entered, the information was entered into the  
15 system late, they still need to review it so  
16 I'll tell them to go ahead and schedule it as  
17 quickly as they can for review.

18 Q. How do those cases come to your  
19 attention?

20 A. Like I said, on that printout that we  
21 get each month of Children in Custody With  
22 Conference Dates More Than Six Months.

23 Q. I guess my question is more the ones  
24 that have not been scheduled because there was  
25 erroneous MACWIS information, how do those cases